



Water Quality NewsFlash

Published by California Department of Transportation, Division of Environmental Analysis, Office of Storm Water Policy

June 6, 2005

Number 05-23

LA River Metals TMDLs – Requirements to be integrated into Caltrans and other MS4 permits – *NewsFlashes 05-14* and *04-31* summarized the total maximum daily loads (TMDLS) developed by the LA Regional Board to reduce the amount of toxic metals (lead, copper, zinc) discharged by stormwater and other sources into the LA River and Ballona Creek. Recent changes to the draft TMDLs describe how the TMDLs will be integrated into the Construction General Permit and permits issued to Caltrans and the other municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) dischargers.

The TMDL wasteload allocations will be incorporated into the Construction General Permit upon renewal or into a watershed-specific general permit developed by the Regional Board. In addition, the construction industry will be required to submit the results of BMP effectiveness studies within five years of the effective date of the TMDL to identify BMPs that will achieve compliance with the final waste load allocations assigned to construction storm water permittees. General construction storm water permittees will be considered in compliance if they implement these Regional Board approved BMPs within seven years of the effective date.

The administrative record and the fact sheets for the MS4 and Caltrans storm water permits must provide reasonable assurance that the BMPs selected will be sufficient to implement the waste load allocations. The implementation schedule for the MS4 and Caltrans permittees consists of a phased approach, with compliance to be achieved in prescribed percentages of the watershed, with total compliance to be achieved within 22 years. The reductions in metal loading to the waterways are substantial. The TMDL estimates for structural controls to meet the limits are over \$1 billion and this estimate may be low based on costs identified during Caltrans BMP Retrofit Pilot Program. Funding of the necessary controls for this TMDL, as well as other LA Basin TMDL, is a major issue. The LA River TMDLs were adopted at the June 2 Regional Board meeting, but those for Ballona Creek will be discussed in July. The changes and final TMDLs should be posted in the near future at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/html/meetings/tmdl/tmdl_pollutant_metal.html#05_0328

Groundwater – State's GAMA to track quality – In response to legislation, the State Water Resources Control Board has established the Groundwater Ambient Monitoring and Assessment (GAMA) Program. The primary objective is to comprehensively assess statewide groundwater quality and gain an understanding of the contamination risk to specific groundwater resources. Groundwater quality and the risk of contamination are becoming increasingly important since infiltration (percolation) into the groundwater is considered a major option for stormwater disposal. Infiltration, however, raises questions concerning groundwater impacts particularly from dissolved pollutants which are less likely to be filtered out by the soil. More information: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/gama/>

WQ NewsFlash is a weekly update of storm water and related news for the Department. *Verify information before taking action on these bulletins.* Contact Betty Sanchez, Betty_Sanchez@dot.ca.gov (916) 653-2115, or Fred Krieger, (510) 843-7889, fkrieger@msn.com with questions or to be added or deleted from e-mail list. Posted online at: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/env/stormwater/publicat/newsflash/index.htm>